

## Continuum of Care Narrative

### Homelessness Objectives

- Provide a variety of housing options, with services, for homeless individuals and families. Support the development of housing at appropriate sites, at a scale that ensures neighborhood compatibility. Ensure the provision of adequate on site services.
- Prevent extremely low and low-income families and individuals from becoming homeless.
- Address emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless individuals and families with children.
- Help homeless persons, including persons with special needs, make the transition to permanent housing and independent living.

### Continuum of Care Objectives

- To sustain and expand efforts to prevent homelessness, so that as few as possible individuals and families become homeless.
- To maintain and expand access of homeless persons to programs and services which can meet their basic human needs, so that to the extent that they are willing to accept such assistance, every homeless individual and family has, at a minimum, a safe place to sleep, food, clothing and necessary health care.
- To maximize the number of homeless individuals/families who, with the help of resources available through the Cambridge Continuum of Care, are able to obtain housing and develop the necessary skills, resources and self-confidence to sustain that housing and maximize their self-determination.

The Cambridge Continuum of Care continued to be an active planning entity for homeless service planning and coordination. Service providers and consumers attended monthly meetings to identify needs and gaps in available services. The City was the lead agency for the SuperNOFA application and used the monthly meetings to gather input and set priorities.

## FY03 Funding Sources and Activities

**McKinney Supportive Housing Program:** These funds were contracted out to local sponsors, which provided for services such as:

- Transitional housing;
- Permanent supported housing;
- Supported employment;
- Housing placement assistance;
- Field-based case management;
- Legal assistance;
- Representative payee services;
- Drop in services; and
- Street outreach.

Current Continuum of Care:

- 28 active Supportive Housing Program contracts;
- 1 active Shelter Plus Care contract under the aegis of the Cambridge Department of Human Service Programs (DHSP); and
- 1 Shelter Plus Care contract under the aegis of the Cambridge Housing Authority (CHA) during FY 2003.

The 2002 SuperNOFA resulted in nearly \$1.7 million, which was used to provide:

- 1 new permanent supported housing project;
- 2 new supportive services projects; and
- 1 Continuum-wide HMIS (homeless management information systems).

The June 21, 2002 SuperNOFA, resulted in over \$1.8 million which provided for:

- 1 new permanent supportive housing project (new);
- 4 transitional housing and/or supportive services projects (renewals); and
- 2 Shelter Plus Care programs (renewals).

FY02 SuperNOFA funds were used over the course of FY03 to support:

- 361 units of shelter and transitional housing for homeless individuals;
- 41 units for families;
- 55 units of permanent supported housing (PSH) for homeless individuals; and
- 7 units for homeless families.

Previous SuperNOFA applications (FY00 and FY01) were used to establish:

- 8 new units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for individuals on line; and
- Another 9 PSH units previously under development are scheduled to open in September 1 2003.

Over the course of the fiscal year, *Continuum of Care Providers* helped:

- 227 homeless individuals; and
- 71 homeless families transition from shelter or transitional housing to permanent housing.

In FY03, the Cambridge *Multi-Service Center* (MSC) provided:

- Homelessness prevention activities; and
- Assistance securing housing;
- Legal services to help maintain tenancy and related services to individuals and families at risk of becoming homeless.

In FY 03 the MSC prevention staff funded with State and local dollars served:

- Over 650 at-risk individuals; and
- Approximately 425 families avoid homelessness and remain in their homes.

**City of Cambridge Funds:** A total of **\$426,465** in FY2003 *City funding* including:

- \$245,265 for personnel,
- \$75,000 for rental assistance to at-risk and homeless persons,
- \$50,000 for purchased legal services for clients, and
- \$56,200 for other expenses associated with operation of the Multi-Service Center, including \$50,640 for rent and \$5,560 for other operating costs.

**Community Development Block Grant:** A total of **\$72,770** in FY2003 *Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding* including;

- \$64,045 for salaries & benefits; and
- \$8,725 in other operating expenses.

**Housing Assistance Program:** A total of **\$173,250** in FY 2003 funding for this program derived from a contract with the *State Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) funding* through a sub-contract with CAPIC of Chelsea for:

- Homelessness prevention; and
- Housing-search assistance for families.

**Massachusetts Housing and Shelter Alliance (MHSA):** A Total of **\$78, 439** in FY 2003 *MHSA funding* for this program provided:

- 1.5 FTE staff for a 22-bed men's transitional housing program through the *Multi-Service Center*.